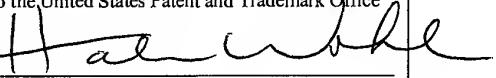


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Thompson et al.	Examiner:	Boyce, Andre D.
Serial No.:	10/645,440	Group Art Unit:	3623
Filed:	August 20, 2003	Docket No.:	40134.0001USI1
Title:	METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OPTIMIZING EMPLOYEE SCHEDULING IN A PATIENT CARE ENVIRONMENT		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.6(a)(4):

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being transmitted electronically to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via EFS-Web in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.6(a)(4) on July 20, 2009.

By: 
Name: Halina Wohl

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mailstop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-12, 14-16, 18-21 and 25-40 in the subject application by the Examiner with appreciation. Applicants point out that the reasons set forth by the Examiner are not the only reasons that claims 1-12, 14-16, 18-21 and 25-40 are allowable. Applicants agree with the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, dated April 23, 2009, to the extent that the claims of the present invention are patentable over the references in the record. However, Applicants do not necessarily acquiesce or agree in any manner as to the comments made by the Examiner regarding what the prior art does or does not teach. In addition, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance to the extent that any comment is intended or has the effect of limiting a claim scope, explicitly or implicitly, by not reciting verbatim the respective claim language, or is intended or has the effect of limiting a claim scope by stating or implying that all the reasons for patentability are in any way fully enumerated.

Application No. 10/645,440
Comments On Statement Of Reasons For Allowance

Further reasons for allowance beyond those enumerated by the Examiner are described and set forth in the Applicants' Specification. As the Examiner's reasons for allowance are not exhaustive, such reasons for allowance do not establish an estoppel against Applicants seeking and obtaining allowance of additional, broader claims in a continuation application, which Applicants reserve the right to file.

It is believed that no further fees are due with this Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen E. Ott, Reg. No. 64,038

Date: July 20, 2009

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